



"Fighting for California Taxpayers"

Welcome

Dear Friends:

Taxes, taxes, and more taxes are coming out of Sacramento as we near the all-important legislative month of May, the highlight of which will be the Governor's May Revision to the state's 2013-14 budget.

Just last week, the Board of Equalization heard at our board meeting that the Brown administration is developing major changes to the state's hazardous substances tax. The changes would expand the number of people required to pay the tax by fifty percent, and lead to an estimated ten percent increase in revenue. The plan is to pass this tax increase as a "gut-and-amend" bill rather than going through the full legislative process. I voted against a BOE staff request to add new positions and millions of dollars in expenses to administer this tax increase.

Many other taxes are continuing to wind their way through Sacramento.

One, which I wrote about for the Orange Count Register, is a new \$10 tax to be applied for every search of court documents. This new tax will hurt transparency, harm the ability of the press to report on judicial matters, and make it much harder for low-income Californians to research and prepare for court cases.

Another opinion piece that is linked below, which I wrote for the Press-Enterprise, is on Senate Bill 391, a \$75 recording tax for real estate documents. This new tax could raise the cost of recording documents by 750 percent or more, and hurt families struggling to stay in their homes. It will likely dissuade homeowners from recording documents related to their properties, and therefore harm the state's private property system. The



Monday, April 29, 2013

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In the News

Upcoming Events

An update on taxpayer education events coming up in May.



BOE Employees from across the Third District came together in April for Steel's Third District Professional Development Day which focused on respect in the workplace and excellence in customer service.

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proposal would also unduly burden rural homeowners, and fund inefficient programs for government subsidized housing projects.

These are just two of dozens of new tax proposals circulating through the Capitol, including taxes on sugary drinks, guns, ammunition, shopping bags, strip clubs, oil extraction, vehicle registration, and cigarettes. And we can't forget six different constitutional amendments proposed to strip one group or another of Prop. 13 protections.

Some say the majority in Sacramento will be playing it safe this year and acting fiscally responsible to solidify their super majority status. Let's stay vigilant to make sure that's the case.

As always, I am honored to serve as your taxpayer advocate. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



Michelle Steel

Vice Chair

California State Board of Equalization

In The News

Who Collects Your Taxes in CA? Q&A With BOE Vice Chair Michelle Steel

(MJ Duran, Watchdogwire.com)

Opinion: Don't Raise Taxes on Real Estate Paperwork

(Op-Ed, The Press-Enterprise)

Michelle Steel: Public Records Fee Hits Poor Hardest

(Op-Ed, Orange County Register)

Proposed Fee To Search Records Hits Poor Litigants Hardest

(Op-Ed, Orange County Breeze)

Latest Example of 'It's Never Enough'

(Steve Williams, Victorville Daily Press)

Sign up to Receive Tax Tips and Third District News!

SIGN UP



Vice Chair Steel with (from left to right) Senior Professional Advisor Keith Chatprapachai, San Diego District Administrator Andy Estrada, Riverside District Administrator Brent Calhoun, Acting Chief of Field Operations Wayne Mashihara, and Chief of Staff Joel Angeles.

The Steel Summary April

4th—Steel hosts a free Small Business Seminar in Long Beach, with Board of Equalization Chairman Jerome Horton.

7th—Steel attends the 10th Annual Thai New Year Festival in Hollywood.

11th—Steel hosts a free Small Business Seminar in Costa Mesa.

13th—Steel hosts the closing day for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance at Irvine Valley College with the United Way of Orange County.

24th—Board of Equalization Meeting in Culver City.

25th—Board of Equalization Meeting in Culver City.

26th—Steel attends the Orange County

Upcoming Taxpayer Events

On **May 2** , I will be hosting a free small business seminar at the Cypress Community Center, with the City of Cypress. Cypress Mayor, Dr. Prakash Narain, and Council Member Mariellen Yarc, will be on hand to represent the city.

This free seminar is geared towards new business owners, entrepreneurs considering starting a business, and business owners that have questions about state or federal tax laws. Presentations include Basic Sales and Use Tax, Better Business through Better Records, State Income Tax and Small Business, Employee or Independent Contractor, U.S. Small Business Administration Loan Programs and Services, Developing Business Plans, and Business Marketing.

It is an excellent opportunity for small-business owners, and for those thinking of starting small-businesses, to network and to interact directly with state and federal tax agencies; to learn about their rights as taxpayers, and how to navigate our complicated state and federal tax codes.

You can see the invitation [here](#), and register for this event by clicking [here](#).

On the same day, I will be hosting and Open House at my Irvine District Office, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Please see the invitation below for more details.

District Attorney's 5th Annual Victims' Rights March and Rally.

29th—Steel attends the 21st anniversary of the LA riots at the Korean American Federation.

May

2nd—Steel hosts a free Small Business Seminar in Cypress, with Cypress Mayor, Dr. Prakash Narain, and City Council Member Mariellen Yarc.

2nd—Steel hosts Irvine District Office Open House.

7th—LA County Bar Association California Tax Practitioners' Conference.

16th—Steel attends the 23rd Annual Hanmi Family Counseling Center Dinner.

22nd—Board of Equalization Meeting in Sacramento.

23rd—Board of Equalization Meeting in Sacramento.

27th—Memorial Day.

Taxpayer Links

Helpful Links for California Taxpayers

Board of Equalization Links

[Taxpayers' Rights Advocate](#)

[Electronic Filing \(E-Services\)](#)

[Board of Equalization Forms](#)

[Seller's Permit Application](#)

[Verify Permit or License](#)

[California Use Tax Form](#)

[Claim for Refund Form](#)



Michelle Steel

Vice Chair
California State Board of Equalization



Cordially invites you to the

Third District's Irvine Office Open House

16715 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 150
Irvine, CA 92606

Thursday, May 2, 2013 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

To RSVP, call 1-949-724-2578

or

email: RSVP3@boe.ca.gov

Join us and enjoy our light refreshments.

Franchise Tax Board Links

[Franchise Tax Board Home Page](#)

[California Tax Service Center](#)

[Forms and Publications](#)

[Form 540 & Form 540A](#)

[Joel Angeles](#)

Chief Deputy

[Arie Dana](#)

Communications Director

[Rosalyn Vasquez](#)

Tax Counsel

[Tim Treichelt](#)

Tax Counsel III

[Keith Chatprapachai](#)

Senior Professional Advisor

[Ray Morquecho](#)

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[Tyler Diep](#)

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